

[L-1]

The Good Old Cause

Explained, Revived, & Asserted.

AND

The Long-Parliament Vindicated.

IN

A Remonstrance to his Excellency the Lord Fleetwood and Council of Officers.

Being the Sense and earnest Desires of many thousands *honest* well-affected Persons of the *Army* and *People* in this *Nation*.

With several *Expedients* humbly offered;

1. *For the settling and securing of our Civil and Spiritual Rights and Freedoms, and the publique Peace of the Nation.*
2. *For the speedy raising of Moneys to pay the Arrears of the Army and Navy, and future supply of other Publique Engagements, as the most probable and visible Way and Means now under God left to accomplish the same; And preserve us from that inevitable Confusion and Destruction which hangs over and threatens the three Nations.*

THe things contended for with the late King, in the late *War*, (wherein there was great effusion of *Christian blood*, and vast *Treasures* spent) Consisted principally of these particulars:

1. That our *Persons* and *Estates* might not be disposed of at the *Arbitrary will* and *pleasure* of the King and his evil *Counsellors*, and other his loose adherents; But secured and protected according to *Magna Charta*, the *Petition of Rights*, and other wholesome *Laws* made for the Defence and Safety of the People, against *Tyranny*, *Oppression*, and *Arbitrariness*, which in these days were too often exercised.

2. To have our *Spiritual Rights and Freedoms* secured unto us; and the *honest conscientious people* preserved from the *Rage and Fury* of the *Bishops* and their *adherents*, who grievously persecuted many for *discrepancies* in Judgment in point of *Form and Ceremonies*, and for not conforming to their *Canons* against the dictates of their own *Consciences*; though holding forth and agreeing in *Fundamentals* warranted by *Scripture*.

3. Upon the whole, to have a thorough *Reformation of Religion, Laws, and Manners*. And to have *Prophaneness, Licentiousness, and Looseness of Conversation* discountenanced and suppressed; and true *Piety, Sobriety, and uprightness of Conversation, Righteousness and Peace*, encouraged and maintained.

4. And lastly, to have the *Militia* of the *Nation* secured and disposed of in such Hands, as might exercise the same for the *Defence and Common Preservation* of our *Lives, Liberties, Rights and Properties*. And to prevent the future use thereof, for the *introducing* and support of *Tyranny, Slavery, and Arbitrariness* in matters *Civil and Spiritual*, so highly attempted by the late *King* and his *Party*.

And it pleased the *Lord of Hosts* (after many sharp *Contests* and bloody *Battles* fought betwixt the *King* and *Parliament* concerning the premises) to decide the *Quarrel* on the *Parliament's* side, by the total *vanquishing* of the *King* and his *Party*; whereby the *Parliament* (who could by no other means prevail with the *King* to a reasonable *Condescension* to the just things demanded from him) were now by the hand of *Providence* put in a capacity (wthout him) to effect the same, and accomplish the premises; being the earnest and longing desires and fervent prayers of the good *People of the Nation*, who freely hazarded their *Lives and Fortunes* in this *Good Old Cause*, which no good *Man* hath cause to *renounce*, or be ashamed of. We say *GOOD*, Because it hath a tendency to the advancing of *God's* glory, the *maintenance* and *Reformation* of the *Essentials* and *Body of Religion* in its purity according to the *word of God*, in opposition to *Papery, Atheism, Superstition and Prophaneness*; and the securing of the *Peoples* just *Rights, Liberties, Properties, Priviledges and Immunities*, against *Tyranny, Arbitrariness, and Oppression*.

OLD, Because Anciently and Originally all *Power* was in the *People*; and the design of setting up all *Governments* and *Governours*, was always professed for the good of the *People*, who primarily had the power and choice of *Electing* betⁿ. But lost it by the *craft, policy, and sinister contrivances* of *aspiring persons*, whose *Ambition* reached as high as the *Heavens*, and their *pride* would admit of no *Equal* on *Earth*.

The regaining our *Liberties and Rights*, and the re-investing the *Supream Authority* in the *Peoples Representatives* in *Parliament*, hath for many scores of years been the great *desires* of the good *people* of this *Nation*, to accomplish the ends aforesaid, being wearied with the former *Oppression and Slavery*, under *Kings, Lords, and Bishops*: which long before the late *war* many thousands of the *Nations* would (which many of them often declared and suffered for it) willingly have shaken off, but could not effect the same, untill it pleased the *Lord* out of his *Almighty providence* (after the total suppressing of the power and interest of that party in these *Nations*) to put it into the hearts of that good old *Parliament*, to settle the *Government* in the way of a *FREE STATE*; which sort of *Government* is neither New nor Strange, The *Venetians* (the *Bull*

mark of Christendome) having for many hundreds. of years lived *happily and victoriously* in the way of a *Common-wealth*. And our Neighbours the *States of Holland*, since they shook off the *Spanish Yoke*, have lived very *plentifully and comfortably*, and highly improved their *Trade and Interest*, whose *freedom* in the Exercise of their *Religion*, doth in no sort *obstruct* or *disturb* the *Government* or *peace* of that *State*. Nor would it probably prove otherwise in this *Nation*, if once the peoples *Spiritual and Civil Rights, Liberties and Proprieties*, were effectually settled and established. So that this *Good Old Cause* is of far longer standing, and hath its essence and beginning before the ten years times prefixed in a late printed paper, and long before the Author or his great Grand-father were born.

And in order to the securing the ends of this *Good Old Cause*, the *Parliament* See their Declared the Grounds of their late proceedings; And of settling the *Government* Declaration in the way of a *FREE STATE*: Which being seriously considered, is tion of sufficient to satisfy every honest conscientious well-affected man touching that 17 *March*, affair. The Office of *Kingly Power*, or under any other Name in a *single Per-* 1648. *son*, being well weighed, and the *Vassal Charge* to support it, and the manner and exercise thereof in these Nations duly considered, will appear to have served mostly to satisfy their own boundless *Ambition, Pride, and Cruelty*, grinding the faces of the *people*, and *prodigally* spending *Christian Blood*, and the *Treasure* of the Nations upon *puntillios* of *Honour*, personal *Titles*, and particular *revenge* and *distastes*, and other sinister ends, under pretence of *State-Policy*; Assuming to themselves that *Supremacy* in all matters, which none may question, much less punish, how *illegal, arbitrary, or unwarrantable* soever their actions may be. And their greedy *Courtiers*, *attendants* and *adherents* trampling upon, and oppressing the *Gentry* and poor *Commonalty* with their new invented *Rates, Taxes, and Monopolies* of all sorts, and other *Court-Inventions, Cum privilegio*. And their Courts have been frequently observed to be the *Patterns, Nurseries, and protectors* of *covetousness, pride, ambition, and looseness*. The Excess of the Court, their relations and attendants, proving an intolerable charge and burthen on the *People*.

The *Ends and Designs* for which the *Long Parliament* did thus change the *Government* from this *Tyranny*, into a *Free-State*, appears in their said printed Declaration, to be,

1. *To prevent a new and further expence and effusion of the Treasure and Blood of England.*

2. *To establish a firm and safe peace and an oblivion of all Rancor and ill-Will occasioned by the late troubles: The establishing the Government in any one single Person or Family, under what name or qualification soever, serving only to intayle a war on us and our posterities, to maintain personall interests, inconsistent with the good and welfare of the Nation.*

3. *To provide for the due Worship of God according to his word, the advancement of the true protestant Religion, and for the liberall and certain maintenance of godly Ministers.*

4. *To procure a just Liberty for the Consciences, Persons, and Estates of all men conformable to God's glory and their own peace.*

5. To endeavour vigorously the punishment of the cruell Murthe-
rers in Ireland, the restoring of the honest Protestants and this Com-
monwealth to their rights there, and the full satisfaction of all En-
gagements for this work.

6. To provide for the seeling and just observing of Treaties and
Alliances with forraign Princes and States, for the encouragement of
Manufactures, for the increase and flourishing of Trades at home, and
the maintenance of the poor in all places of the Land.

7. To take care for the due Reformation and Administration of
the Law and publique justice, that the evill may be punished and the
good rewarded.

8. To order the Revenue in such a way that the publique charges
may be defrayed, the souldiers Pay justly and duly seiled; that free
quarter may be wholly taken off, the People be eased in their Burthens
and Taxes, and the debts of the Commonwealth be justly satisfied.

9. To remove all grievances and oppressions of the People, and to
establish peace and righteousness in the Land.

19. March,
1648. The Parliament passed an *Act*, for the abolishing of the House of Lords, that
grand Badge and Relique of the Norman Conquest, which served only for a *Nega-*
tive voyce against the Peoples just rights and liberties, being the great obstru-
ers of good Lawes, and supporters of the arbitrary unlimited will and pleasure of
Princes.

It was Enacted,

19. May,
1649. That the People of England, and of all the Dominions
and Territories thereto belonging, be constituted, made, esta-
blished and confirmed to be a Common-wealth and Free State,
and shall be henceforth governed as a Common-wealth and
Free State, by the Supreme Authoritie of the Nation, the Pre-
sentators of the People in Parliament, And by such as they
shall appoint Officers and Ministers of the good of the People,
And that WITHOUT ANY KING OR HOUSE
OF LORDS.

14. May,
1649. And it was Enacted, That if any person shall maliciously
publish by writing, printing, or openly declaring, that the
Government of the People, by its owne Representatives, or Pa-
tionall meetings in Council, is Tyrannicall usurped or unlawfull:
Or that the Commons in Parliament Assembled, are not the
Supreme Authority of the Nation: Or plot, contrive, or endeavour
to raise force against the present Government, or the subversion
or alteration of the same: And shall declare the same by an open
Act, every such offence shall be adjudged HIGH TREASON.
Which Acts are yet unrepealed.

That

That the Parliament (though they were *famous* for their *Heroick* and *worthy* *Acts*) not giving satisfaction to all men in all things, were by some (as is conceived unadvisedly) interrupted 20 April, 1655. who have many of them since (on serious consideration of the ill consequence thereof, and the hidden designs and private ends of some amongst them,) heartily repented them thereof, and openly confessed and declared the same, and their other *backslidings* and *fallings* off, from that *good old Cause*.

By reason of which interruption, the Parliament were *obscured* and *disabled* from accomplishing the *good things* hoped for and by them promised and intended to have been wrought for the *People*.

And since that time, What great changes have happened both in the *Government* and *Governours*? what daubings with *untemper'd mo. ur.*, and *flattering applications* have been made, and apparent *violations* of all former *Oaths, Covenants, Promises, Declarations* and *Engagements*, deserting of their *good old Professions* and *Principles*, even by many who before were eminent and precious men; for their *piety* and *integrity*? And all to patch a *Government* *disaffection* and *abominable* to God and *good men*; and so repugnant to the *Judgements, Consciences* and *affections* of the honest well affected, unbiass'd people of the *Nations* and this *good old Cause*, that their spirits were *grieved* and *tormented*; their hearts *trembled*, their bowels did *yearn* within them for these great *abominations*, and high *breach* of *faith* and *trust* committed in the face of the *Nation*: who by the *ambitious* and *covetous designs* of carnall men, displeasing to God, are brought low, the *Trade, Treasure*, and *Honour* of the *Nation* being decayed, lost, and exhausted, and excessive debts contracted on them.

But to adde *iniquity* to sin, and *aggravate* these their *transgressions*, How many *godly, honest* and *well-affected* people, have been since persecuted, imprisoned, executed, banished, and oppressed for a *good Conscience*; their Goods and Estates taken from them, contrary to the known *Laws* of the *Nation*, and *Liberties* of the *People*, which the *Actors* thereof so often *vowed, promised* and *declared* to maintain.

What *Inquisitions* were set up to block up and obstruct the wayes of the *righteous*? How many men of loose *principles* and *earnal ends*, were approved and intrusted with the work of the *Ministry*? How many good men put by, and their mouths stopped? And how many wayes were used to suppress the *Good old Cause*, and the real professors and patterns of true Religion and Piety? We leave it to the good people of the *Nation* to judge of. The Lord having eminently born witness, and testified his high displeasure against these *inquiries* and *abominations*.

And that which is *wonderful* in the eyes of all men, With what *violence* and *inconsiderateness* the *LAWYERS* and other *disaffected ambitious persons* in the late *Parliament*, did carry on the Design of *Kingship*. And the re-establishing of *Kings, Lords* and *Bishops*, tending to the re-investing of *Charles Stuart*, and his party. How ready they were to give away the *Militia, Strength* and *Treasure* of the *Nation*, into the hands of a *single Person*, contrary to the aforesaid *Act* and all former *Declarations, Propositions*, and *Engagements*, pleading for, and earnestly contending to *instate* themselves and their *Posterity*. And at one breath, to give away all the *rights, freedom* and *liberties* of the *People*, which during many years *waive* with the price of so much *Blood* and *Treasure* they had gained.

But the Lord our God having stirred your Spirits to put a stop to these *exorbitant* and *unsafe proceedings*, and once more to give the opportunity to *advance*

the *Kingdom of Christ*, To propagate the *Gospel*, and to countenance and support the *profession and professors thereof*, To repair and heal our *wreathes*, To regulate the *Laws and Courts of Justice*, And by *Gods assistance*, to lay a *sure foundation*, for the future intailing and securing of our *Civil and Spiritual rights* to us and our *Posterity*, that we and they may have cause to pray for you, and God may bless and prosper your *undertakings*. And having considered the present extraordinary *vicissitudes*, And that most rational men, acknowledge the *Legislative power*, is *primarily and originally* in the *People*, for whose only mutual good, all *Laws and Governments* ought to be constituted according to that good old Maxime, *Salus populi Supremalex*.

And all personal and private advantages and promotions in competition therewith, ought to be layd aside, and wholly put out of *remembrance*, And every individual person ought to study the *general peace, welfare, and comfort of the whole*, Give us leave then in all *meekness and humility of Spirit*, to lay these things before you, as so many *mementoes of former actions*, that you may thereby avoid the like *evils*, and prevent those *inconveniences* which must consequently attend all *private and sinister respects*, repugnant to the *publique*, having no cause to be *jealous of your integrity*. But the sad consideration of the *failings* and total *fallings away* of many *pious and worthy* persons that went before you, whose wings were *clogged*, and themselves *insuared* with the worldly temptation of Satan to our Saviour, who have preferred and embraced an *Earthly Tabernacle*, before the *Eternal Kingdom of Heaven*; we have better hopes of you, And our prayers shall not cease to the *Lord*, that your *zeal and affection* to his people, may not be abated for any terrestrial Concernments.

Proposals for future peace and settlement of the Nations.

1 That the *long Parliament*, so, as aforesaid, interrupted in their proceedings, who settled the Government in the way of a *Free State*, may be forthwith convened and re-established. And for that purpose, The Army and other good people of the Nation, would declare to stand by, and protect them in order to an effectual settlement of the good things by them promised and held forth to the People in their said Declaration of the 17th of *March, 1648*. And for further provision to be made, as may conduce to the peace and welfare of the Nations, being the most visible remaining Authority, and most probable persons to effect the same, since the late *Warres* for the publique satisfaction of all persons, forms, and degrees of men in these Nations.

2. That all others of the *long Parliament*, that shall concur with them in reducing the Government, in the way of *Free State*; And shall subscribe to, and own their and the Armies proceedings against the late King and his party, be afterwards admitted, and all vacant places filled.

3 That after such settlement, an Act may be passed for an equal Representative and distribution of Elections for the future, with fitting qualifications and provisions for the future securing of our peace, rights, liberties and privileges.

4 That the Militia of the Nation may be intrusted in the hands of persons well affected to the Nation, and the Interest of a *Free State*.

5 That all Malignants and persons ill affected to this settlement that have crept into places military or civil, may be removed. And that those Officers and Souldiers,

Souldiers, that for their integrity to this *Good old Cause*, or for a good Conscience have been put out, may be speedily restored.

6 That the Lawes and exorbitances of Courts of Justice and Offices, may be regulated, and the People eased from the obstructions, charge, and delays in Law proceedings.

7 That the Arreaires of the Army and Navy, may be payd, and for the future secured. And that no person be displaced in an arbitrary manner as formerly, without due summons, examinations, and other legall proceedings against them, according to the Lawes, Martial and Civil.

8 That provision be made for tender Consciences, and others differing in matters of form, and they freed from the former persecutions.

9 That an Act of Indemnity and Pardon, may be made for the Officers and Souldiers of the Army; and others that have legally acted in publique places, suitable to the nature and exigency of those affaires.

10 That effectual meanes be used, to beget and continue peace, and a right understanding betwixt Us and our Neighbour-Nations; hereby Trade and Commerce may be encouraged and maintained, being almost lost and decayed, to the ruine of many Merchants and Families.

Proposals for raising of monies.

1 That a grand Committee be appointed, and a sub-Committee authorized in every County, to examine and take the accompts of all Committees, Commissioners, Excisemen, Treasurers, Receivers, Farmers and Collectors of the publique monies and Revenues belonging to the State, many sober knowing men, being of opinion, that there remains above 100000 *l.* unaccounted for, out of the Tithes and Church-livings in *Wales*, which was in great measure discovered, and under examination in the last Parliament.

2 That either the Fees and Salaries of the grand Officers belonging to the respective Courts of the Nation may be retrenched and regulated. Or rather, an yearly Mulct imposed on them, suitable to the profits of their places, to continue untill the publique debts of the Nation be payd.

3 That the Fees of the grand Officers of the Army, and of other publique imployments, may be likewise retrenched, untill the publique debts and arrears of the Army and Navy be payd. And that Companies and Troops shall consist of full numbers, viz each Company 120 besides Officers, & every Troop 100. And that superfluous Officers may be spared, to ease the burthen of the Common-wealth, which seemes but reasonable in time of peace, and otherwise provided for, and encouraged in publique imployments.

4 That such eminent and wealthy persons, who were the chief and main Instruments, in altering the Government from a Free State, and supporting the same, such who have been instrumentall in oppressing the Nation, and exercising Tyranny and arbitrariness on the good people, and Inhabitants thereof, and have otherwise contributed to the great wrongs and grievances imposed on the Nation and every individual member thereof, in misleading and misguiding the Army and others the honest well-meaning people of the Nation; And such as have endeavoured, or effected the betraying of our Lawes, Liberties, and Priviledges, in matters civil and spiritual; and the setting up of Kingship, or the Powers military or civil, in one single person, contrary to the aforesaid Acts, for settling the Government in the way of a Free State, may be fined to the value of the 3d; or at

least

least the 5th part of their Estates real and personal, towards this pay of the Army and Navy, and defraying of other publique charges of the Nation. And an Act of Pardon and Indemnity for the rest, which is both favourable and moderate, since it is humbly conceived, they have forfeited their lives and Estates, by the strictness of those Acts of the 14th and 19th March, 1648. And many of the offenders have gained vast Estates by the late Warres and other publique Employments.

Before we leave you, and you desert us, you are desired to consider,

1. **T**HE Potency and Multitude of the *Enemies* at home and abroad, The Interest of the Family of the *Stuarts*; The *Treaties, Peace, Confederation* and *Alliances* of Forreign *Princes* and *States* whom you have disobliged; and by your *Divisions* and *unsettledness* rendred your selves almost incapable of *Treaties* and Accommodation of *Peace*; your *Faith, Credit, and Steadfastness* of your Resolutions being doubted as well by your *Friends* as *Foes*.

2. If you return to the *Petition and Advice*, do you not give your late *Representation* and *Addresse* a deniall? Have you done well to break the last *Parliament* to assert the *Good Old Cause*, and immediately after trample it under your feet; and wholly to desert your friends and principles, who will leave you and your *single Interest* and *Family* to perish in your own self-seeking wayes? Must you not then call another *Parliament*? and will they answer your expectations? or rather Chastise you for dissolving the last, and wholly disband you.

3. Can the Interest of a *single Family* in opposition to the *Stuarts*, long subsist? Will not the Interest of a *Free-State* more probably support and preserve us in *peace*, and answer the ends of the *Warre*, and the pressing Desires of the People; whose general good and Interest will be involved therein, and every man bound to venture life and fortune to maintain it; even the Cavalier, who in *honour* and *honesty* cannot be either compelled or perswaded to set up and support one Family-Interest against the other, who may have more of Law, Right and Reason on his side, and many *Oaths* to Oblige them thereto; which will not be so, if you establish a *Free-State*.

4. Do you not find the Judgments, Affections, and Desires of the generality of the good People for a *Free-State*; And the *Nobility, Gentry, and Commonalty* against a *single Person* and the *Other House*, which is so obnoxious to all men, both for its Constitution and Qualification.

5. Will you adventure to set up a *Council, Senate, or Parliament* of your own nomination which you may as easily pull down, new modell, and change? and can you imagine this *Nation* will submit to such *arbitrary* proceedings, and be governed by the sole power of a Confused unsettled Army?

6. For your own and the Nations Common preservation, give life and motion to the Convention of the *Long Parliament*, as the only refuge left for you and us, under God, and the sole *Chirurgeons* that can cure and heal our diseases: Delays are dangerous.

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